THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Economic & Commercial Sub-Commission of the Indo-U.S. Joint Commission met in New Delhi on the 11-12th February, 1987. The Sub-Commission discussed a wide range of economic issues of mutual interest including the new round of GATT negotiations. Both sides noted that the launching of the new round of negotiations was aimed at preserving and strengthening the multilateral trading system. The Sub-Commission also agreed on the importance of holding expert level discussions so as to develop better bilateral understanding on issues involved in the new round.

(b) Selection of technology is primarily left to the Indian entrepreneur party who after exploring different alternatives selects the one that suits him best and thereafter applies for government's approval to the collaboration. The application is considered on its merits. While interest has been shown by American companies in having collaboration with Indian counterparts, no complaints of bottlenecks have been received by the Government.

Non-receipt of replies to complaint by MPs

@@2770-D. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament do not receive any reply to their letters from the officials of the various ministries;

(b) if so, what has been the number of such complaints during the last three years; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

@@Previously Unstarrted Question 2897 transferred from the 20th March, 1987.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No instance where reply has not been received by an MP to his letter has come to our notice. Both the Manual for handling Parliament Work in the Ministries and the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure contain detailed and specific provisions for quick disposal of letters received from the Members of Parliament. Separate instructions have been issued from time to time not only for this purpose but also about giving information required by them.

12.00 Noon.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1987, to Unstarred Question 15, regarding illegal immigrants from Pakistan

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1987, to Unstarred Question 15, regarding illegal imigrants from Pakistan. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4009/87].

Sir, I regret the error.